Figure 2: Important factors in helping Year 9 students settle well at secondary school

1. Positive preparation for Year 8 students as they approach the move to secondary school.
   - School encourages family support and interest.
   - Year 9 deans take responsibility for successful student transition.
   - Year 9 form teachers are committed to their role.
   - There is effective school leadership (e.g., in terms of support for deans, form teachers).

2. Students feel safe.
   - Students and staff have pride in the school.
   - Teachers know ‘who students are’.
   - Teaching and learning experiences are effective (e.g., varied learning opportunities).
   - Students participate in extracurricular activities/become involved in wider life of the school.
   - There is physical comfort at school and scope for specific ‘Year 9 areas’.

3. Effective collaboration between schools.
   - There are well trained peer supporters.
   - Students have positive interactions with old/new friends/peers.

4. Positive experiences for Year 9 students on entry to secondary school.

5. Strategies/approaches to ensure students’ ongoing participation and engagement at school.